

B 2 11/17. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein the somatic embryo is a somatic embryo which has been previously desiccated to a final moisture content in the range of 5 - 75%.

B 3 12/19. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein the growing mix is a mixture of substrates selected from the group consisting of peat, sawdust, bark chips, wood chips, compost, moss, perlite, vermiculite, pumice, grit, sand, soil, cellulosic fibres of plant origin, extruded foams, extruded fibres, and chemically expanded foams.

13/20. (Amended) The process according to claim 53, wherein the growth medium contains a wetting agent.

14/22. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein the moisture content of the growth medium is adjusted with water to a range of 60-85% prior to receiving a somatic embryo.

15/23. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein the moisture content of the growth medium is adjusted with a nutrient solution to a range of 60-85% prior to receiving a somatic embryo.

B 4 16/24. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein at least one fungicide to control plant pathogens is incorporated into the growth medium.

17/25. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein at least one fungicide to control plant pathogens is applied in liquid form to the growth medium.

18/26. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein at least one fungicide to control plant pathogens is applied in aerosol form to the growth medium.

19/27. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein at least one insecticide to control plant pests is incorporated into the growth medium.

20/28. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein at least one insecticide to control plant pests is applied in liquid form to the growth medium.

21/29. (Amended) The process according to claim 53 wherein at least one insecticide to control plant

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pests is applied in aerosol form to the growth medium.

22. ~~30.~~ (Amended) The process according to claim ~~53~~¹ wherein the growth medium is contained within a horticultural container.

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26. ~~34.~~ (Amended) The process according to claim ~~53~~¹ wherein the somatic embryo placed on or within the growth medium, is covered with a material selected from the group consisting of peat, sawdust, bark chips, wood chips, compost, moss, perlite, vermiculite, pumice, grit, sand, soil, cellulose fibres of plant origin, extruded foams, extruded fibres, and chemically expanded foams.

27. ~~35.~~ (Amended) The process according to claim ~~53~~¹ wherein the somatic embryo is placed on or within the growth medium with seeding equipment.

31. ~~41.~~ (Amended) The process according to claim ~~53~~¹ wherein the carbohydrate is a sugar selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides and polysaccharides.

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32. ~~42.~~ (Amended) The process according to claim ~~53~~¹ wherein the carbohydrate is a sugar selected from the group consisting of glucose, fructose, mannose, maltose, and sucrose.

33. ~~43.~~ (Amended) The process according to claim ~~53~~¹ wherein only water is applied to the surface of the growth medium for a period of 18-36 hours after sowing the somatic embryo on or within the growth medium, after which time, nutrient solutions are also applied.

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45. (Amended) A process of growing a somatic embryo into a seedling, which comprises maintaining a somatic embryo ~~germinated~~^{C3} according to the process of claim 1 in a growth medium, and growing said germinated embryo to develop the germinated embryo into a seedling.

53.(Amended) A process of germinating gymnosperm somatic embryos, which comprises:

- [Handwritten: V. J. J.]*
- (a) *ex vitro* sowing an unencapsulated gymnosperm somatic plant embryo on or within a non-sterile plant growth medium selected from the group consisting of peat, soil and a horticultural growing mix,
 - (b) placing the medium containing the somatic embryo into a non-sterile environmentally-controlled plant-growing environment in which at least relative humidity may be controlled and manipulated, *[Handwritten: J. J.]*
 - (c) maintaining said relative humidity in the range of 90 to 100% for at least two days from sowing to enable and facilitate germination of the somatic embryo, and *[Handwritten: J.]*
 - (d) making a nutrient carbohydrate available to the embryo, and applying nutrient solution by a method selected from the group consisting of fogging, misting and irrigation, at least during the period of somatic embryo germination such that somatic embryo imbibition, germination, growth and development occur.

[Handwritten: B9] 256.(Amended) A process according to claim 53 wherein the nutrient solution is applied in the form of microdroplets. --

[Handwritten: B]
[A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached showing the changes made]